

a time to meet neighbors and celebrate the heritage of an entire area. Thompson Days features a parade, garden tour, dances, craft shows, classic car show, horseshoe tournament, and lots of other activities.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Thompson, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Thompson and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Thompson that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Thompson has a proud past and a bright future.●

RECOGNIZING THE HAWTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, Idahoans have a strong reputation for being staunchly patriotic and supporting our military men and women. I am proud to say that this patriotism has its roots even in our children, as evidenced by the recent penny drive held at Hawthorne Middle School in Pocatello, ID.

More than 500 seventh and eighth graders, with the help of teachers and administrators, raised \$1,000 over the course of 3 weeks to purchase special gifts for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. That \$1,000, mostly in change, required daily counting by the students and, from what I understand, taking it to the bank required multiple bags and boxes! In fact, 100,000 pennies weigh close to 700 lbs, so I am certain that it was a heavy deposit despite the fact that it wasn't all collected in pennies. This remarkable achievement and dedication to supporting our military overseas deserves recognition and congratulations. Hawthorne Middle school's success reflects a sense of civic duty and national pride, refreshing in middle school students in today's world. This is indicative of the influence of strong families and strong educators at this Idaho school. I commend them on their generosity and commitment to our troops, and present Hawthorne Middle School students, parents, and teachers as models of patriotism, civic duty, and selfless giving.●

TRIBUTE TO JEFF SINCLAIR

● Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Jeff Sinclair, an outstanding Scoutmaster in the State of Wisconsin who passed away October 25, 2006, after a brave battle with cancer.

Jeff's involvement with the Boy Scouts began in 1998, when he became a leader of St. Dominic's Cub Scout Pack 119. Beginning in 2001, he served as Scoutmaster for St. John Vianney's Boy Scout Troop 71, and despite his illness, he continued leading the group until his death.

During his tenure as Scoutmaster, Jeff mentored over 14 percent of his

Scouts—including both of his sons—to receive the Eagle Award, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. This is a stark contrast to the national average of 4 percent of Scouts who receive the award. Jeff's remarkable dedication and leadership to the group has earned him numerous awards and commendations, and I believe he deserves our recognition as well.

Jeff was also accepted as a member of the Boy Scout prestigious Order of the Arrow Honor Society, and his sons followed in his footsteps to attain the distinction. Clearly, not only did Jeff commit himself to serving others, but he inspired those around him to do the same.

Born on March 9, 1960, in Milwaukee to Dr. Eugene and Jean Sinclair, Jeff was an accomplished individual who dedicated himself to helping others. In 1983 he earned a business degree from Marquette University, and for the next several years, he used his skills and expertise to serve the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Revenue.

While Jeff was successful and well regarded in his career and throughout Boy Scouts, his greatest priorities were his family and his faith. A loving husband to wife Kathy and a dedicated father to four children—Matt, Andy, Maggie and Emma—Jeff found great joy in encouraging and supporting their endeavors. In addition to his devoted involvement with his sons' Boy Scout troop, Jeff often assisted with his daughters' soccer teams. He was also very active in his home parish, St. Dominic's.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to remember Jeff Sinclair for his dedication to his family, church, and community. Undoubtedly, he was a great friend, mentor, and source of joy to countless individuals throughout the years, and he will be missed.

Mr. President, please join me in offering deepest sympathy to his wife, children, and parents. May they find peace and comfort knowing that Jeff's legacy of serving, teaching, and empowering others will last far into the future that this world is a better place because of him.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN R. GANTZ

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I recognize Dr. John R. Gantz for his 43 years of distinguished service to the United States of America. Dr. Gantz has provided faithful service to his Nation as a soldier, educator and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gantz earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Stroudsburg University, a Master's Degree in Adult Education from George Washington University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California.

After serving in the infantry with the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, he taught mathematics and science for the Job Corps in New Jersey. He then began his

civil service career as an education adviser in Virginia, followed by two similar assignments in Korea. During this time, he has served as an education specialist, Headquarters Department of the Army; Director of Education, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Deputy Director of Education, U.S. Army Forces Command, Atlanta Georgia; and Deputy Director of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, DANTES.

In 1984, Dr. Gantz was selected as the DANTES European adviser. In this position, he provided guidance and training to education professionals supporting military personnel throughout the United States-European military commands. He has served on numerous advisory boards and been selected to participate in many national conferences as an expert in education programming. This year he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX.

Since 1994, Dr. Gantz has been the first and only chief of the federally authorized Troops to Teachers Program. Under his dynamic and innovative leadership, over 9,000 servicemembers from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy have made the transition from military careers to become K-12 public education classroom teachers and school administrators. His superb dedication to develop a unique program that recruits special education, mathematics and science teachers for high-needs, low-income schools has provided countless students the benefit of learning with "real world" mentors and role models. His dedication to academic excellence, complete selflessness and visionary professionalism has brought great credit not only upon himself, but also upon the Troops to Teachers Program and public education everywhere.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Dr. Gantz for his dedicated service to our country. He has made a significant difference in both the U.S. Army and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. Once again, I thank Dr. Gantz for his many years of devoted service.●

EBENEZER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to congratulate an outstanding and historic church from my home State of Michigan. This year, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church of Detroit, celebrates 135 years of service, learning and faith. This milestone provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on the rich history of this institution and to remember the many individuals who played an integral part in its success.

The name "Ebenezer" means "stone of help," and for 135 years, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church has truly exemplified this meaning. Ebenezer was established by a small